

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord of our lives, may we approach You this day with earnest and truthful hearts. May we be eager to obey Your laws, desirous for Your company among us, and committed to remain loyal in our service to You and to this Nation.

Enable us to keep Your commands ever before us, like lenses through which we look to determine our steps; like reminders written on our hands, so that we cannot ignore them.

And when we walk these halls or take our seats in meeting rooms or rise to speak in these Chambers, may we pause to realize that You are here in our midst. Thus, may we not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought, but prudent in employing the opportunities You have entrusted to us.

Always and with sincerity, may we devote ourselves for Your intent for our lives, not with lipservice, but as ones totally beholden to You for all that we have. Today and every day, may we strive to do Your will with our whole heart.

In Your sovereign and gracious name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OUR VETERANS DESERVE ACCESS TO CARE

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today because our veterans deserve access to care at every corner of the country as they have selflessly defended this country.

After Express Scripts, who manages the TRICARE benefit on behalf of the

DOD, instituted network changes that cut out thousands of community pharmacies last year, my office received dozens of calls from veterans who are unable to access their prescriptions.

Our local pharmacies have the drugs these veterans need now, but unless there are changes from the DOD that provide access that is actually adequate, our veterans cannot access the medications they need from community pharmacies.

While the DOD drags their feet, veterans are being refused lifesaving medicines and offered unacceptable alternatives to the care they used to be able to receive.

Mr. Kimsey, a veteran from Warner Robins, Georgia, is one of the many patients in my district who this new rule affected. Mr. Kimsey is a cancer patient at Central Georgia Cancer Care and is taking a chemo drug. He has been on this medication for about a year and was told that TRICARE would no longer pay for the medication at the local pharmacy. He called my office after trying to fill his prescriptions and only had five pills left of this critical drug.

The new DOD-approved pharmacy said they could mail the drug to him in 10 days, but he couldn't wait 10 days. This is just one example of why community pharmacists are so vital to patients, especially in rural areas.

MASS SHOOTING IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, on May 14, 2022, a racist mass shooting took place at a supermarket in my home community of Buffalo, New York.

Armed with an assault weapon, the shooter killed 10 people and injured three more in just 2 minutes and 3 seconds; one shooter.

We continue to mourn, and we continue to struggle to move on. Sadly, we are not the only community facing this challenge. Horrific mass shootings have taken place in Uvalde, Texas; Highland Park, Illinois; Colorado Springs; Raleigh, North Carolina; Monterey Bay and Half Moon Bay, California.

Last year we passed the bipartisan Safe Communities Act. This was an important step, but more needs to be done. As we mark National Gun Violence Survivors' week, we must honor those impacted by shootings by continuing to deliver legislation that will save lives.

I am proud to support a Federal assault weapons ban, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FRANKLIN GUTIERREZ, JR.

(Mr. MOYLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOYLAN. I would like to take this time to honor and wish Franklin Gutierrez, Jr., a happy birthday.

Over the weekend, Frankie G., who is one of Guam's legendary musicians, turned the big 5-0.

For decades, Mr. Gutierrez has not only entertained many with his vocal gifts, but he has also nurtured a future generation of musicians in Guam. His band, Rumblefish, is an island icon. Frankie G. is more than just a musician. He is a proud husband, a father, a grandfather, and a friend.

Frankie G. has also served his island as an officer with the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency. He has proudly protected our borders while putting himself in harm's way. From the Halls of the United States House of Representatives, I wish Frankie G. a happy 50th birthday.

END HUNGER NOW

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, my two sisters are public school teachers. They taught me that school breakfast and lunches are every bit as important as a textbook or a laptop to that child's ability to learn.

During the pandemic, Congress wisely provided 30 million kids free meals at school, but last spring that provision expired.

Most schools had to go back to onerous paperwork and millions of kids stopped getting free meals. I urge USDA to make it easier for States to adopt universal school meals, including by lowering the threshold for community eligibility.

California, Maine, and soon Colorado already made universal school meals permanent. Three other States, including Massachusetts, have extended universal meals through this school year.

Massachusetts is working to make the program permanent with legislation recently introduced by State Rep. Andy Vargas and State Senator Sal DiDomenico.

Madam Speaker, we have a sacred responsibility to keep kids fed, and I am hopeful that one day soon we can pass a universal school meals bill here in the United States Congress. Together, we can end hunger now.

THE PANDEMIC IS OVER

(Mr. BEAN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have breaking news: The pandemic has ended. It seems that everyone knows the pandemic is over, except the White House.

Despite the fact that the President said in an interview last September on "60 Minutes" the pandemic has ended,